

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Security arrangements at airports in the country are elaborate and effective. All airports have laid down standard security arrangements. The airports are protected by a perimeter wall, physical guarding and by patrolling round the clock. Anti-hijacking and anti-sabotage measures and counter terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) are in position at all airports. A dedicated armed force, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been deployed at 54 airports and it will be inducted at all remaining operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF is the airport security unit and is overall in-charge of security, including pre-embarkation security measures related to aircraft security. Hold baggage security measures are implemented by airlines concerned. Manpower deployed is supported by adequate gadgetry and equipment.

(b) On 13.1.2007, a passenger traveled on Air India flight AI-717 from Mumbai to Dubai was detected with a pistol and 30 rounds of cartridges by Custom Authorities at Dubai.

(c) The baggage of the passenger was screened by a Security Agent from M/s. Air India Air Transport Service Ltd., who apparently failed to detect the revolver and live cartridges. The security agent has since been suspended.

This is a failure at the individual level. All concerned have been directed to be extra vigilant in screening and in other Aviation Security functions.

Infrastructure Development in 35 Non-Metro Airports

733. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is putting surplus land in 35 non-metro airports to good use by developing them at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 crore;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the AAI will construct hotels, shopping areas, eateries, convention centres, cargo complex, parking lots and health centres as part of infrastructure development on the city-side; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Out of 35 Non-Metro airports selected by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development and modernisations, the city side development of Eight Non-Metro airports which are either Civil Enclaves at Defence Airfields or airports located in remote areas will be done by AAI. The city side development of the remaining Non-Metro airports will be done under Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Upgradation of Bagdogra Airport

734. SHRI TARINI KANTARROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the proposals of Government to upgrade Bagdogra Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Bagdogra airport in West Bengal belongs to Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave (CE) at this airport. AAI has a plan for expansion of the present civil apron capacity from 3 number AB-320 types of aircraft to 8 numbers. AAI has also plans for expansion of the present Terminals Building subject to availability of land.

AAI's directive on resignation of Non-ATC employees

†735. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India has asked all the employees except Air Traffic Control employees to submit their resignation and work in joint venture companies;

(b) if so, whether employees are not satisfied with it and propose to go on strike;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to resolve this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.